

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended) A composition for treating squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) comprising an antibody against a migration facilitating protein (MFP), which antibody that specifically binds an epitope in the human laminin 5 alpha 3 G4-5 domain lying between amino acid 1399 and amino acid 1713 of SEQ ID NO:21 a migration facilitating protein (MFP) comprising a laminin 5 alpha 3 G4 and/or 5 domain or subdomain thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP comprising a laminin 5 alpha 3 G4 domain an epitope in the laminin 5 alpha 3 G4 domain lying between amino acid 1375 and amino acid 1390 of SEQ ID NO:21.

3. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 2, wherein said antibody does not bind to an epitope for a BMP-1 cleavage site within said laminin 5 alpha 3 G4 domain or subdomain thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP comprising a laminin 5 alpha 3 G5 domain an epitope in laminin 5 alpha 3 G4 domain lying between amino acid 1358 and amino acid 1366 of SEQ ID NO:21.

5 (Original) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

6. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

7. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said SCC is selected from the group consisting of skin cancer, lung cancer, head cancer, gastric cancer, colorectal, throat cancer, cancer of the urinary tract, cancer of the reproductive tract, esophageal cancer, and bronchiogenic carcinoma.

8. (Withdrawn) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said MFP has a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.

9. (Withdrawn) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said MFP has a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

10. (Withdrawn) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said MFP has a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17.

11. (Withdrawn) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said MFP has a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:19.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said MFP has a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:23.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of treating squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) in a patient comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of one or more antibodies in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein one or more of said antibodies is capable of specifically binding a MFP of a laminin 5 G4 and/or G5 domain or subdomain thereof, and inhibiting SCC tumorigenesis.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP having a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP having a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP having a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17.

18. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:19.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:23.

21. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

22. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

23. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said SCC is selected from the group consisting of skin cancer, lung cancer, head cancer, gastric cancer, colorectal, throat cancer, cancer of the urinary tract, cancer of the reproductive tract, esophageal cancer, and bronchiogenic carcinoma.

24. (Withdrawn) A method for diagnosing the presence of SCC comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a sample suspected of comprising neoplastic epithelial cells with an antibody capable of specifically binding a MFP of a laminin 5 G4-5 domain or subdomain thereof,  
b) detecting the binding of said antibody to said MFP; and,  
c) diagnosing therefrom the presence or absence of SCC in said sample.

25. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP having a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.

26. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP having a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

27. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP having a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17.

28. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP having a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:19.

29. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP having a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.

30. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said antibody binds to a MFP having a sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:23.

31. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said antibody further comprises a detectable label.

32. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said epithelial cells are selected from the group consisting of squamous cells, keratinocytes, mucosal epithelial cells, gastrointestinal epithelial cells, corneal epithelia of the eye, and epithelial cells of the urinary and reproductive tract.

33. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said sample is a tissue sample.

34. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said sample is a urine sample.

35. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said sample is a blood sample.

36. – 43. (Canceled)